

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL 03-123

Rosemarie Avellino
127 Camino Roble
Toms River, NJ 08755-1260
E-mail rosiejr2005@verizon.net
Fax (732) 886-0001
May 24, 2007

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JUN 11 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Federal Communications Center (FCC)
RE: Docket No. 03-123
Fax (866) 418-0232
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Dear Chairman Martin, Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate:

I am a deaf person and I use Video Relay Service (VRS) to communicate. I was appalled to learn that the FCC staff is intent on drastically cutting the VRS rate, and effectively cutting VRS availability for the deaf. Instead of seeking to limit the number of deaf people with VRS access, the FCC should do everything in its power to make VRS available to more deaf people.

I, along with other Deaf individuals, use these services in both my work in the future and personal life. It is an important way in which I/we communicate with both hearing and deaf individuals. I urge you to do everything you can to make VRS service available to the many deaf people who currently do not have access to this vital, life-changing service.

The VRS rate should encourage the VRS providers to:

- Serve more deaf people, not discourage them from reaching out to more deaf people
- Provide interpreter training programs so that there will be an adequate number of qualified interpreters for VRS and the local Deaf communities
- Provide service and technology improvements, such as the development of new videophone equipment, fulfilling the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandate of functionally equivalent telecommunications services

I, along with other deaf individuals, their families and coworkers, depend on VRS and other relay services.

Please stop any VRS program cuts and fulfill the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide deaf people with functionally equivalent telecommunications services.

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I would like to add my note: If you are thinking placed to be cut for VRS programs would be same suggest different kind of cut for hearing people that can be done very equally. I know myself mostly made for hearing people making feel good about themselves because they happened to be normal person can hear but when deaf or hard of hearing didn't asked to be themselves being that way. For me I happened to be born that way loss of hearing. I see many systems haven't been fair equally and that why asking you to stop cutting down funds for deaf and hard of hearing. Well I suggest hearing/deaf and hard of hearing should be very strictly equal now I see nothing has been equally that why cause complications problems. If you were my shoe you would get the whole picture yourself. I use VRS only non-important because now I found myself a lot of hearing people do wrong things at workplace where do they work at position very unprofessional and the employers will never find out their mistakes and they tried to save their job and tried to covert themselves saving their own time without terminated. Because I have two bad experience but good thing I had print out from ip-relay service when was done talking someone else insult me which very not acceptable and found the evidence but I would like to have VRS but only not important because VRS don't have print out text messages what hearing people do wrong thing which it was discrimination. I know you are not related to discrimination but VRS don't have print out but have to get blank tape to recorded if anyone does wrong thing and trying to get away with their saving big time job at their workplace not the relay service. Now you are FCC I am asking you it is okay to use blank tape for recorded to make any calls if happened that hearing people do unprofessional on their job discrimination what would you do for VRS. I like Videophone very much yes helps me cut down typing because can use a lot of sign language and improvement my English levels.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me. I thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Rosemarie Avellino

Cc: Senator Lautenberg, Congressman Saxton
Senator Menendez

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